

George Ticknor.

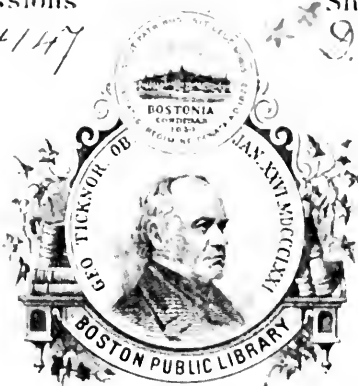
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BEQUEATHED BY

George Ticknor.

Dec. 11th 1881

The evening
Svenobaks
Kent
Sept. 10. 1831

My dear Sir

Of the inclosed some
there were no more than fifty
printed, & I find that I have
now only two or three remaining.
But I am quite sure that one
of these would not be in better
hands than your's, if then, you
will be so good as to accept it
you will give me great pleasure, &
I think you will see in it some
traces de España & interest you.

Believe me always my dear Sir
your very faithful servant
Mason





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L E T T E R S

FROM

THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH

TO

GENERAL STANHOPE,

IN SPAIN.

FROM THE ORIGINALS AT CHEVENING.

NOT PUBLISHED, AND ONLY FIFTY COPIES
PRINTED.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES,

DUKE-STREET, STAMFORD-STREET.

1834.

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L E T T E R S,

&c.

SIR,

MY servants being in Holland, making at Liege and elsewhere those provisions for me that may be best and cheapest had in that country, which may be brought to us by the Dutch ships, such as tea, chocolate, rum, claret, Rhenish, Burgundy, and some eatables peculiar to them, as pickled herrings, and sturgeons, and stock fish, I send, too, for some little wearing things, as lace, and some sort of linen.

This makes me desirous to know whether my servants may not be useful to you in something there, if you please to make a calculation of what you desire, and what you will have expended; it will be no inconvenience or trouble to me to lay down the money there, and have them brought to you amongst my goods, without any trouble or charge. You excuse this freedom from

Sir,

Your affectionate servant,

PETERBOROW.

March the 31st (1705).

Barcelona, Nov. the 18th, 1705.

FRIEND,

I send you my letter to my Lord Treasurer open, and Harley's; seal them before you deliver them; it will make mine the shorter to you, and you will be instructed from both, and from what my wife will inform you, of what I expect for the public and myself.

You remember the uneasinesses I have been exposed to before you left me; they are increased fifty per cent. since your departure:

they do not torment me as they did in our first camp, because I hope our reputations are safe; but Cunningham must be a true prophet, and never were troops exposed to such usage, or a poor prince to such ministers.

God preserve any country from the best of German ministers! what is the circumstance of that place exposed to the worst of them? In the beggarly circumstances of our princes and generals, it is certain nothing can be greater than the affection of all sorts of people to the King, and nothing can be greater than the contempt and aversion they have to Liestein and Wolfeld, and to the whole Vienna crew. They have spent their whole time in selling places; and all the money in the town so disposed of that way, and so well secured, that Mr. Crow, myself, and all the friends we could employ in Barcelona, could not obtain 6000*l.* to keep our troops from starving, either upon bills for Genoa, Leghorn, Lisbon, Amsterdam, or London.

In a word your wish could not put us in better circumstances, and your imagination cannot conceive a worse condition than we are in.

Not only Catalonia, but all these parts of Spain are entirely disposed in our favour. Some provinces of France as weary of their King, as these parts are of the Duke of Anjou.

I have intelligence and correspondence wherever the enemy have troops, who are much more disposed to join us than to fight with us. From Valencia, from Arragon, from Mont Lewis, from Languedoc, from the Cevennes, I have every day offers and solicitations; and I cannot want success wherever I go, if I could but go. Add to all this that the Duke of Savoy is returned, and in heart. In answer to some letters from him, I was forced to send Hamilton to Italy.

But on the other side, never prince was accompanied by such wretches for ministers: they have neither money, sense, nor honour; and make such work here, that were it not for Crow, who knows the people, and does interpose sometimes, all things here would be in the utmost confusion.

In a word, I cannot get carriages to transport the baggage of our troops to their garrisons; I cannot get ammunition carried to

a fortified town where there is not one barrel of powder ; I cannot get provisions put into a place which must expect a siege ; I cannot so much as get the breach of Barcelona repaired, The Dutch troops have not one farthing but what I am forced to find for them. The marines were never provided ; for the troops that came over to us are naked, starving, and deserting back. I have no money left, I have no credit, I have sent a begging to Italy, but cannot hope for a fit return ; we have no medicines for our sick, we have not wherewithal to constitute and form hospitals, and we shall perish without being able to get to those places which only desire to be in our hands. The troops of La Feuillade are coming towards us ; those from the frontiers of Portugal in motion ; the French are rushing horse and foot on the frontiers, and the happy opportunity in our favour cannot last long, and we cannot make use of it while it does.

Now, Sir, I must trouble you a little upon my own account. I take it for granted that my readiness to serve in all places, and upon all occasions, and perhaps under the greatest difficulties, will not do me a prejudice in relation to my sea pretences, though I am not ignorant that there are some who will make it an argument, that the great services that may be expected for the next campaign ashore can afford but little opportunity for my serving at sea. To this my plain answer is, without the command of the fleet and troops I desire to be recalled home, and will not serve. I think I have made no ill use of the double trust reposed in me, and I am sure it will prove more necessary this year than the last. You have sufficient experience of our sea politics ; but as I have stated the double scheme in my letter to my Lord Treasurer for the operations next year, I must add to you, that I believe the enterprises along the coasts and on the sea ports are the most probable. To Madrid we might have gone this year, with money and a little more force. They would scarce have had the leisure, or wherewithal to have destroyed the country before us, but now that remedy they will have in their power ; and certainly they will put it in execution when pressed, which must put us on the other measures in conjunction with the fleet, besides what the necessity of affairs may require in Italy, or a superiority of force ashore.

But, Sir, you that saw the wise negotiations of some people with our seamen ; you that know what some men are capable of, which will be confirmed from Methuen from all that are concerned in the Queen's business, pray represent to the ministers that nothing but sufficient authority, or positive orders as to those services approved by our court, can save fleet or army from being exposed to the caprices of the most wretched creatures of the earth. The Prince Litestein and General Wolfeld have thought it strange that troops should not march without baggage ; that they should complain for want of money ; that they should think it hard not to have fire or quarters allowed them in Barcelona ; in a word, that they should expect here what troops have every where else ; that they should desire the sick should be taken from the well, or that hospitals should be provided to save troops they stand so much in need of. The truth is, a thousand have perished in this town by their inhumanity and negligence. They have hitherto lain exposed in open cloisters to the air and wet, the sick upon the bare ground amongst the other men, without any relief. Never men suffered so much and with so much patience ; it goes to my soul ; and all things are at a stand, while these beggars are selling places to their greatest enemies, a German Sinsenstein, the Prince of Hesse's piratical secretary officiating as such for the King, and being become a great minister.

The first thing I desire you to press with my wife is the dispatch of my commission of Vice-Admiral of England, or my leave to come home ; and rather than be delayed, if the frigate were coming, send it to me by express to the Duke of Savoy, from whose hands I should soon receive it here. I hope before this comes to your hands you will have fought a parliamentary battle for me in relation to a confirmation of Dauncey by act of Parliament. We have an ugly report about affairs in Portugal, and my Lord Galloway's being hurt, but in so confused and odd a manner, we give it little credit. You will judge best of what is to be done in relation to affairs there. I wish the King would have let me go thither, but I cannot get leave to stir an inch from them. I need not tell you money and dispatch are the only things can save us. For mercy's sake let us get some officers. Now Hamilton is gone,

judge how finely I am attended. I would fain have Windham come hither.

You must appease for me the Board of Ordnance, who will be a little touchy upon my bringing in a new officer, though amongst their wretched crew. The King will write about it, upon whose repeated instances I was forced to take care to place some officer who could be depended upon. I have given the commission of lieutenant-colonel of the artillery to Major du Terme. You know how much obliged to me they will be for such a choice, if they suffer him to serve till they know him. Pray give my Lord Marlborow his character, and let him know, at the same time, he did the whole service during the siege. Colonel Richards is coming to you. You remember the drunken wretches of that society, and the office will consider what we have now to look after—fourscore cannon, besides a field-train; the care of providing for the defence of Gerona, Tarragona, Lerida, Tortosa, and Barcelona; but I am told the Board of Ordnance will be very angry at my pretending to bring a new man among them. I confess they should have sent me some one man I could have depended upon, or that was fit for such a trust; this I know, I am well served for the present, and let the future look after itself.

Besides the troops the Queen will be pleased to send, and the States, the Queen must support the King of Spain, to enable him to make levies here, which will be easily afterwards maintained; but if this can be obtained, for heaven's sake let care be taken that we may see it laid out in public services, and for the troops; for if any of it should come into Litestein's hands, the public would never be the better for it. It would be the greatest service imaginable to send him almost all military accoutrements—the money would remain with us, and all those things are double price in Spain. The clothes ready made up for horse and foot—the colour, you know, must be yellow of the outside, lined with red, or any other colour. Hats, boots, shoes, shirts—everything is wanting here, or to be had at most extravagant rates only. The first time, I doubt, the Queen must give them; as we advance and establish ourselves, I hope afterwards we shall be able to pay for them.

I enclose a letter to your father, which I desire you to send. I solicit hard everywhere. I am sensible we might do great things if sustained; but I hope the ministers will value themselves as they ought upon the support they give, and so keep these poor beggars from riding us with German pride and insolence, and sacrificing us by their folly. They have not assisted us in the least circumstance—have suffered a thousand of our men to perish by ill usage; and if our troops were not possessed with the opinion and desire to bring about some things of great consequence, they would lose patience, and mutiny.

My service to all my friends present. My service to Paterson when you see him: tell him I take it ill he has not sent me one letter; it is a reproach I might make to all my acquaintance—to Johnson, to Dr. Garth, to everybody. Pray make haste to bring what you can with you; but, believe me, nothing can be so welcome as yourself.

Your affectionate servant,

PETERBOROUGH.

I send you this little paper by itself, because the rest you may show my Lord Treasurer, or whom you please; but this is only in relation to sea-matters, to let you know how you must manage that matter for me.

First, they promised me to make me Vice-Admiral of England; that they will do without difficulty; if they will not, I desire positively to come home. They as good as promised me that I should command the fleet, not in commission, but as Vice-Admiral; but this I know, Shovell will be put upon laying down, if he be not joined in commission with me, and they will pretend I am absent; that he must bring the fleet out, and that I can pass but a small time at sea, by reason of my command ashore, which will become so considerable, as to take up all one's time. To this there are some arguments in my letter, but the truth is, my great design is, when I have drawn all the forces this way, to make a short turn, and take Cales.

I know Shovell will pretend he will carry the flag at main-top-mast head, that he may be in the direction of the white, as I in the

red; and I am willing to share the profits with him, if that will content him. Manage this as well as you can, and, if possible, make them sensible how good a second he is, and yet very far from the being capable of the first command, for which Leake is much more fit; however, if it be positively insisted on, I will not wholly decline the service if they should earnestly desire a commission, but, then, let me be in a ship by myself, at sea, to which there can be no objection. We may both carry flags at the main-top-mast head, as we did when the King of Spain was aboard, and we meet, as we always must do, for counsels of war, and there can be no dissenting for that. Let me have the *Britannia*—he the touring—and let them choose what captain they will for me, senior to Norris, that I may not be troubled with that governing coxcomb, who was accused and condemned in parliament for his scandalous Newfoundland business, and whose character and humour you know. For heaven's sake adjust this as soon as possible, and let me hear from you; and if the ministers are not mightily my friends, and willing to give me due support, get me immediately my liberty.

I desire you to speak to my Lord Marlborow for a commission for me for Rivers' regiment; if so, I will break Hamilton's regiment, which Southwell shall have, and send the officers home to raise a new corps. I believe the Queen will order Charlemont to sell; if so, I have agreed with him at 1500*l.*, but he would have been described as a hero. If he be prevented from bargaining for the new clothing, the regiment will come cheap. Ask my wife whether she will buy it for Harry; if not, see to it for young Codrington—he is a very pretty fellow—should have bought in the Guards—and has a good estate.

FINIS.

Cunningham is such an eternal screech-owl, and growing more and more disagreeable: if possible get him removed to some other service more suitable to his humour.

Valencia, May 30th, 1706.

I AM a little surprised I have no account from you as to any matters relating to Gerona, or to the circumstances relating to Catalonia or the enemy. I have a pretence, I think, to have some account from somebody. But by the most unheard-of proceeding that ever was, an express was sent from the court for the money I paid at Barcelona, for which you were to receive the bills and receipts, which I expected you would have sent me, that I might have settled that matter with Mr. Mead, and a word to me.

I send the King some orders from the Queen and the Lord High Admiral, relating to Savoy : the King will consider and take upon himself that matter. You will see the result of the Sea Council of War ; and if the King does not interpose, whom it most concerns, everybody else will comply with an order which seems so pressing.

The account from Methuen I send the King, with desires he will communicate all to you. I have spread some other news which I thought necessary for our affairs here. Methinks it should prove true, and that upon the news of our success, and the taking Ciudad Rodrigo, the Portuguese should march back toward Madrid. There are reports about it, on the pretences of its being in the Madrid Gazette ; but whether proceeding from my story, or from truth, I know not.

But I am in a mighty surprise, as I believe the King will be when he is informed that Mr. Mead has received orders from the ministers, and appropriations from the ministers, of all the moneys

his hands ; so that he can pay not one farthing to any of the King of Spain's troops ; and I am in no condition to carry on any service. This is far from my being accountable for not ordering, or allotting the necessary money to carry on the present expedition ; and his Majesty will see how well his threats were applied.

I see no remedy, unless I can find some way, upon my own credit, to procure money to seek services for the King. I am sure he shall change his note before I make the experiment, and not use me with such foolish ill breeding. I desire you will make him sensible of his usage to me upon this head, and of the

necessity of his applying to me to exert myself upon this occasion, if it be possible for me to find the expedient. All affairs, of all kind, must be at a stand, that cannot be complied with according to the strict establishment; and his troops, that I would have given orders to pay, and with which he was not content, must now desert, plunder, or starve. Would to God that can be obtained which I designed to do when Mr. Mead told me the moneys were to be paid to my orders, and upon his last directions and advices!

I must desire you to send me the letter you promised, intimating what you told me from the ministers, of the liberties I might take in carrying on the service within the limits of the Parliament establishment, as likewise the instructions about the West Indies, of which I find they expect some account. The Mary galley will come, and may carry letters to Italy; get yours ready and send to Barcelona, or else you lose that opportunity; and give the services of his friends here to the laughing secretary, who, when you are busy, may correspond with Mr. Furly, that we may know something of what passes.

Sir,

Your affectionate servant,

PETERBOROW.

The Count de las Torres marched this day with all his troops towards Madrid, being, I suppose, by some motions of mine, afraid I should possess the passes of Castille.

MR. STANHOPE,

It was not hard to imagine that the 18,000 crowns were already sent for from our paymaster, and his bills returned to the court.

But I confess I was a little surprised, and I believe others will be so too, who hardly seemed satisfied with what I offered, when they find that, perhaps, Mr. Mead will pay nothing but to the troops on the establishment, if it exceeds 4000*l.*, the sum allowed for contingencies.

It is certain we are in a fair way if we would not spoil our game with foul practices. You will see to save what you can, in case Gerona be not besieged, and remember that no foreigners should be paid whole pay, but in a proportion of it as answers our subsistence.

The siege of Nativa is raised. Our Englishmen came in time into the place. Bassett had already two officers of Las Torres in the place. To be sure, it was only to let them know how vigorously he would defend the place. I believe, in a little time, I may send you news will not be displeasing, from hence. If you are not gone, let the ambassador of Portugal show you the copy of my letter to the King. I am dead for want of sleep, and can write no more.

Your most affectionate friend,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, June the 5th, 1706.

Valencia, June 17th, 1706.

SIR,

According to the laudable custom of our court, they have sent me a scheme for the service, quite differing from the first and solemn resolutions of the Council of War, and send to me to know what men and money I can send to the Saragossa army; and this no opinion of a council of war, but a letter signed by the King, without anything to the same purpose from any general or minister.

For money, the answer is easy: The court of England has sent Mr. Mead orders, by which all the money in his hands is appropriated to the prescribed services, and the 100,000*l.* depended upon by the King of Spain, all charged as overpaid, having placed upon that fund the 40,000*l.* from Italy; all the money I had furnished from the beginning to this day, clothes and arms, amounting to about 24,000*l.*: the expenses of cavalry regiments, and the 10,000*l.* to the King, which, with what I have advanced, exceed the sum near 15,000*l.* I have sent Colonel Richards to explain this matter to the King, with the accounts.

I desire you will make use of this opportunity with the King to let him see how proper it was to threaten me, as if I defrauded him of public money. I offered to pay all his troops, gave all the money I had, when I left Catalonia, and yet was used according to their innate good breeding. I am afflicted at the disappointment for the public, having not a farthing to give to his troops; but the mortification had yet been greater if it had not been explained to them, what they would not be convinced of by me; however, I must turn heaven and earth to get money to support his troops, and will do it if they are made sensible how unseasonable their obliging ways were; and that they must starve, or rob, if I do not find ways to support them, at the hazard of my own fortune. I believe I shall soon be possessed of Requena; the proper place for our magazine for Castille and of Alicant, whither I am marching with some troops. Our new men are all in the hospital; but, however, Las Torres is gone, and the whole kingdom ours.

Your affectionate friend,

PETERBOROW.

SIR,

It is more than intolerable that the same thing should be expected from me without the troops agreed, as with them—without money, as with money; and, what is most provoking, I am not to think myself ill used, receiving every day the most needless affronts, and the greatest hardships.

But that you may depend upon, and you do me justice in believing that these follies can make no alteration in me in any part of my duty; only, as a public minister, I desire you to advise the ministers I am very weary of the service, that they may not be surprised if I should make use of the blessed liberty you obtained for me.

You see, Sir, the dangerous circumstances of the Duke of Savoy; and we must consider what our situation will be, if the Portuguese should return to quarters of refreshment, and, at

least, not make good their post at Salamanca. If that infamous folly can be committed by them, and that the Duke of Savoy lose his country, his capital, or be obliged to submit, how can we maintain our acquisitions in Spain, when the forces employed in Piedmont shall turn against us?

If the Portuguese retire, how shall we maintain ourselves, or to what purpose, though the war in Italy were subsisting? The Duke of Anjou about Madrid, joined by Torres, has about seven thousand horse and six thousand foot. This is an inconsiderable force against an army of twenty-six thousand men of one side, and two thousand horse and five thousand foot of the other; but if the Portuguese retire, are we to conquer Spain and march to Madrid with two thousand horse against seven, and equal foot? And what shall become of us, if Marshal Tessé come into Arragon with twelve or fourteen thousand men? With our admirable conduct, our steadiness—with the good opinion and kindness the country has for us—with the conviction we are and shall ever be betrayed by the Portuguese, we shall find ourselves in fine circumstances, even if miracles could preserve the Duke of Savoy. If this is our case, there is but one thing to be done, and that the thing in the world will be most opposed by our court, and so divulged if talked of to them as to make the execution impossible.

But, Sir, I must first let you see what difference in the fatal consequences betwixt what they put in execution, and what was resolved in the council of war; and sure there never was any thing so impudent as altering such solemn measures without the least communication with generals or ministers, on the very sham pretence even of a council of war amongst themselves to the contrary—Noyelles ignorant of it, and surprised.

Had I had that horse in the time proposed, Las Torres had never got out of Valencia, who has now, going off, plundered the whole country of mules and horses, that none are to be got for money, and our troops useless. I have been able all this while to procure but enough for one regiment, and am forced to make use of those of the artillery, which will prove of fatal consequences—they will be destroyed before we find others.

In a word, want of money alone will destroy us; and I hardly see how I can get those troops in order to march, if the opportunity was fair to employ them. Upon the whole matter, if the Portuguese are retired, I see but one bold stroke to save us, which is, to make use of this season, when troops can hardly march by land, to embark six thousand men, and attempt Cales, which at present must be unprovided; it may be covered with the presence of Italy. We may be from Alicant and those parts before Cales ere they suspect our design, or can take their resolutions. The truth is, at present all the strength of Spain is in Gibraltar, Cales, and the places in Catalonia; all the wealth in Andalusia and Madrid. Valencia and Arragon are great loose bodies, that follow immediately the superiority of force in the field; but, however, if once declared for us, they would amuse the enemy for some time, and it would require no little space to come and walk them over.

When once possessed of the island of Cales, with six thousand men, the artillery of the fleet, and assistance of men, I cannot see why those that took Barcelona might not think of the other; but certainly half the fleet might be employed to fetch succours from Portugal, which would certainly be given, possessed of Badajos, Ciudad Rodrigo, Port St. Mary's, and Seville. Those places might maintain the war, and the trade with the West Indies open can only ease England in the present expense and reward the past. Perhaps it were no paradox to say, Cales taken were better for England, and the war of Spain not wholly ended, than even the King at Madrid; but it is enough to make a virtue of necessity.

Let us consider, Sir, the reverse, or wrong side of the project, and what might happen while we are trying this noble experiment. The French, I conclude, have quitted Lampurdan; their troops half way either on their march to Italy, or, by Navarre, into Arragon: so that I see no danger of any attempts against Catalonia, when the enemy find an attempt upon Cales, which may be followed with the conquest of Andalusia, and a junction of troops betwixt my Lord Galloway and me. I believe they dare make no detachments towards Valencia, which we may leave all united, and declared, as well as Arragon, if the troops marching that way

have the desired success. I leave this with you to think of as the news falls out about the Portuguese. I believe you are mightily pleased with the coming in of the galleys, who have brought with them sixty thousand crowns. I am trying whether I can make use of them to surprise Peniscola before it is known that they have deserted the Duke of Anjou. By the King's letter, it seems as if he would have me come to Tortosa to speak with him. I can do it without any prejudice to the service, if the Portuguese are retired. I do not see why the King should come to Valencia; he should rather be at Tortosa till the certain measures are resolved of that must be taken in case the Portuguese have left us in the lurch.

The news of the defeat of the Elector of Bavaria, and submission of Flanders to our King, I fear, is too good to be true. We have it from Madrid, with rumours of many great men confined. I am fretted out of my wits for want of wherewithal to enable the troops to march.

Sir,

Your most humble and affectionate servant,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, the 20th (June,) 1706.

Sir,

When I desire a thing extremely, I rather conceal than own my inclination, so that I think to succeed. I must plead for Arragon, and endeavour to show the absurdity and folly of desiring to be at Madrid.

The certain intelligence you receive, since I have no letters from Portugal. When I had some, there were none for the court, how ready soever they were to suppose it, and complain: but I find by the master of the bark, and the corresponding news from Madrid, that the Portuguese are at Salamanca, and can see no motive to believe they intend to retire, but much the contrary. I think this would make any others advance, and send for all their troops this way.

I believe you were surprised at what I communicated to you

about money, and Mr. Mead's orders; the inconveniences I shall remedy to the utmost of my power, but I hope it has saved me sufficiently from the imputation of concealing or keeping back public money from the King of Spain.

I believe Carthagena is ours, but our fleet have an odd manner of acting. In concert with them I had ordered the troops to march, though with the utmost inconvenience and difficulty, towards Alicant. This was agreed in a council of war, twice repeated. I have no artillery but theirs. Mahoni was in Alicant, and it might occasion some difficulty. Without consulting with me, they change their measures and go for Carthagena, which at any time was ready to declare. This, from others, might seem extraordinary. I desire you will acquaint the King of this; but, however, the troops will employ themselves in little services that will contribute towards enabling us to make our magazines for marching towards Madrid. For many reasons we ought to make an end of this affair by the same vigorous measures it has hitherto prospered with. It is no little satisfaction to me to find you are of the same mind; I wish we may always run the same fortune with the same opinion. Nobody can be more yours.

Your affectionate servant,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, June the 24th, 1706.

SIR,

The news we received from Tortosa, of the Duke of Anjou having left Madrid, is confirmed of all hands by the advices we have likewise received; though I have no notice from the King and yourself, I take it for granted, since the letters to me from Tortosa came from the magistrates, and they sent the copies of those came from Cifuentes.

It cannot be doubted but that the King will make the utmost haste to his capital, and therefore march with the horse without any delay, since he may safely do it from this side, upon the retreat of the enemy towards Pamplona.

It will be a great happiness for our foot, that would have

suffered extremely in this march, and the folly appears of sending new troops, for, in a manner, they are all already incapable of service, and the old regiments are the strongest.

I have another idea in keeping the foot near the sea. I hope we shall find things in such circumstances at Madrid, that we may send an immediate relief to Savoy. I believe, by some letters I received from Italy, that the first ships from England will bring some positive orders upon that subject.

Nothing, sure, can be more the interest of the King and the people of Spain, in all respects. The loss of the Duke of Savoy and his capital can only retrieve their other misfortunes; what can better secure Catalonia than the further destruction of French troops before Turin? If the affairs in Italy go ill, there may be a danger, in a treaty of peace, of the Crown of Spain losing all their pretensions in Italy; and you are sensible how necessary it is to the public interest that his Royal Highness be sustained, and how much it would add to the romance of our undertaking, if, within the year, I could settle, in a manner, the Crown of Spain, and save Italy.

All the difficulty can be made by the King must be upon this presumption, that a powerful army may return upon Spain and into Arragon, when the troops retired towards Pamplona may be joined by Tessé and the French; and that there will be a necessity of a like considerable force to oppose, if the affairs of Italy are supported. In our present circumstances I think there is nothing so plain, as that the French must desist from the thoughts of conquering a kingdom they could not keep when they had it. Besides these troops cannot for some months form this terrible body, and when the King is master of Madrid and of the moneys which I suppose may be got there, of the foot taken in Alcantara, and of those that will desert the enemy, with the assistance of those great men that will make their court upon such a revolution, I suppose it will be easy to get together a considerable body of what may be called old troops.

Upon the whole matter I think I may depend upon this, that the King will lose no time in going to Madrid, and that, in the present circumstances, his quickest and safest way is by Valencia,

and not by Arragon. I conceive, if the foot were to follow, it would be by slow and easy marches, and that the King will be retarded by nothing. I shall therefore get the horse forwards, and not press any of the services in this country to the fatiguing or ruin of our men, since all will fall, of course, as soon as the retreat of the Duke of Anjou is known.

Pray let me hear from you as soon as possible; and let me know the King's resolution, that I may apply myself wholly to get the horse in a condition to march.

Pray, Sir, make some kind, but very warm, reproaches to the Ambassador of Portugal. I have sent him, and to others, positive notice, that I received in my packet from Lisbon no letter from him, or for any of the Court; and yet he writes to several, as if he could doubt of what I assure him. The contents of those letters that I received at that time from Portugal were such, that if he saw them he would not wonder that their ship brought letters only for me; there were some for my officers, which, for very good reasons, I kept from them: but if he be informed that I had any letters for him in my packet, I will give him leave to think what he pleases for the future, but he may be very well assured there were none, or else I should never have told him so. I allow some such suppositions from some of the Court, but take them very unkindly from him. I hope the King will be pleased with the fortifications at Tortosa: he has reason to be satisfied with my care and concern; but to those that think everything their due, there is no merit.

Sir,

Your affectionate Friend,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, (June) the 30th.

SIR,

Of all the Catalonian gentlemen, the Conde of Zavillar has the best understanding, and, upon all occasions, has shown the greatest kindness to the English nation, and has his thoughts best turned to affairs.

He comes, at my desire, with some principal men of quality, to meet the King at Tortosa ; and having been sent from court to oversee the affairs of Valencia, will give those lights of every thing to the King that I desire he should have. He is very desirous of an intimacy with you, and will assist and concur heartily in all we can wish or desire.

It is not conceivable what infamies have been committed by Bassett in this country, and such insolencies and follies were never heard of. I fear he has distributed some of his money, and I should be sorry the King should be persuaded not to discountenance such scandalous actions, especially after having, in a manner, engaged me in reputation, by his orders given to me, the viceroy, and the court, to take the proper measures to repress his insolencies.

I hope it is not possible that anything can persuade the King not to make the utmost dispatch to Madrid, and to march only with the horse: so many reasons induce to this resolution, that with any other person in the world there would be no doubt. This Erle comes earnestly to solicit the King to the utmost dispatch ; it is there only the proper measures can be taken, as to every part of the service ; and from thence one can only write positively to England.

I confess I cannot but think resolutions might be taken in relation to Savoy ; but of this when we meet, which I hope will be soon. I would come to Tortosa, but that I am using my utmost endeavours for getting horses, and am forced to go to the other side the country ; but you will send me advice, by expresses, of the King's motions, that I may meet him as he comes, in less than a year to Madrid. I hope this will win wagers.

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

PETERBOROW.

I only add, this gentleman has a mind to be sent to England with the news of Madrid, and I wish it.

SIR,

I have writ to you by the Count de Zavillar, who comes with the Valencian noblemen by sea, and I believe may be with you as soon as the courier. However, I can lose no opportunity of pressing our journey to Madrid; I think that ought to be the proper way of going, now Requena is taken—I mean post, at least with our cavalry alone, as fast as we can jog on.

We have deserters from the army of Madrid come to us, who give account of four regiments of horse that have left the Duke of Anjou, the fair lady of Barcelona's brother being one of them. The King owes that to himself, and has agreeably got the brother by making love to the sister.

I think our business done, and to some purpose, to drive one out, and put another in, within the year! I want only to relieve the Duke of Savoy, and then to Will's coffeehouse in winter!

I would have come to Tortosa, but for the necessity of going beyond Xativa, to get horses. Pray send me an express, to advise when the King arrives at Valencia, that I may meet you.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, July the 2nd, 1706.

SIR,

There needs no representation to you or persecution. Good God! can there be any such thoughts in the head of any persons as you seem to represent?

The King's letter to me seems rather to intimate that he would avoid Valencia, lose no time, pass by Requena, and so to Madrid; and I think there cannot be a juster thought; and the lucky surrender of that place makes everything easy and secure.

If that resolution be taken, I must stay and put everything in order towards it, else I may take post and come to Tortosa, as the King seems to desire.

I send my letters open: be pleased to take a copy of that to the King, having not had time; but as you have already insinuated, you may intimate (to concert with my Lord Galloway, and take the proper measures for the affairs of Savoy), that if the King goes to Arragon, I must march with five hundred horse to Madrid: this will have its effect. I say no more, and need not write to the Portugal Ambassador. My letter to him I hope came seasonably.

Your most humble and affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, July the 5th, 1706.

Sir,

What all our representations could not do I hope this express will compass: the ill will with which the Portuguese came, and the inclination which they seem to have to return, may awake the court.

The consequences of the successes in Flanders are beyond belief, and the affairs of France must be in a strange confusion, Ostend, Nieuport, even Namur in our power.

Of our side Seville and Toledo-declared, and nothing wanting but the King's presence; sure nothing can prevail against such palpable necessity.

The courier is impatient, and I know how unnecessary it is to press a right thought to you, who so naturally fall into it; pray send an express to me as soon as you find that you think of moving this way.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, (July) the 6th, 1706.

SIR,

The confirmation of the good news comes from England by Mr. Vernon : it has particular charms for me, besides my interest in the public concern. You saw the danger that our expedition was exposed to, and, at the same time, myself, by a fatal jealousy, which is now out of doors ; and I have the most obliging marks of the Queen's good opinion, and of the friendship and familiarity of the great ones.

The Duchess is in excess obliging and kind, and looks upon our successes with a better eye, as owning it to be the occasion of my Lord Duke's good fortune. The first news they had of the relief of Barcelona was from the French prisoners, who owned that the shameful events there occasioned the King of France to change his orders, who had at first given directions for a chicaning campaign.

I should be easy by the orders I have received, and the circumstances I find my affairs in at home, if the court had taken measures anything less desperate. I do not see why the enemy should not burn to the walls of Saragosa, while you are there, and besiege you in it, since they may invest it with six thousand horse ; by what you will be told from Madrid, it would be difficult, I doubt, to make a Portuguese army march to Saragosa. And in time, with good management, you may wait till some foot may join them. By the account of our circumstances in the West Indies, the policy of losing the precious time will more plainly appear.

I have all possible encouragement from home, and I conceive them perfectly well apprized of our conduct and management ; some marks of the Queen's favours give me uneasiness, and others more trouble : but the character of Ambassador Extraordinary, with those plenipotentiary powers sent me, are calculated to reduce our German ministers to some bounds. I doubt the news will not be over acceptable to some of the court. I am made uneasy by the great trust the Queen is pleased to repose in me, being more accountable for the events in Italy ; and what resolu-

tions can be taken before we come to Madrid. We might have been in condition to judge and act too in ten days' time, if the King would not have broke into such solemn resolutions, with a folly and weakness which I believe was never equalled.

My Lord Mordaunt is coming with the Queen's compliments to the King of Spain upon the affairs of Flanders; and though I cannot but say the Duchess of Marlborough's part, my Lord Treasurer's in that, and all that concerns me, is very obliging, yet I own I could have spared that favour.

I am informed I have some very good friends, and great numbers of pretending ones, (but, Sir, what occasion I have had to know their value!) My wife presents her services to you, and repeats in every letter the sense she has of your sincere concerns for my interests when in England. I hope now we may run a course together in our fortunes, with wind and tide on our side, unless your wise measures bring some fatal event upon a game that was sure.

I have renewed my request for your brother about the guards: if you had not had that bent, I would have put him in a fair way in a regiment of dragoons, that I have brought to a condition you would little imagine; but, Sir, you cannot doubt but that I shall enter into all the interests of your family preferably to my own upon all occasions.

I am resolved to make one effort more to see if anything can touch a German heart. I have received a good sum of my own, and credit: the King and his troops shall have every farthing of it, and I will send it in gold to our expedition at Saragosa, as likewise a thousand pistoles for the Portugal Ambassador: he writes to Mead, who can furnish him with none. I am desirous to oblige him, and you will do me the favour to make him sensible of it.

Poor Codrington is quite blind, and the most unfortunate man in the world, almost to the degree of madness. I shall be so myself; the heats and obligations of drudgery and writing have brought me a defluxion upon my eyes that is very uneasy. In my next I shall give you an account of my resolutions, which shall be

pursuant to a Council of War, to which his own Viceroy shall be a consenting party.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Friend,

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, July the 8th, 1706.

I send you enclosed the copy of the Queen's letter to the King : I send the original by Tortosa ; you may show the copy if you receive it first.

SIR,

I enclose my letter to the King, and a copy of his to me. I shall never lament or admire, nor lose time, but in few words to my business.

As to the designs upon the islands, his Majesty does not write to me, or order the Count de Zavillar to speak to me. I am no person concerned in that matter, but his Majesty is pleased I should be the person concerned in having the blame of not succouring the Duke of Savoy.

Sir, I send you the orders likewise sent to the Admirals, and you have the former, where the allotting of the succours were left to the King of Spain and myself.

Now, Sir, I must apply to you, as the Queen's minister, to get a speedy explication upon this point from the King ; the measures lately taken make me incapable of judging of the circumstances of Spain. The alterations from the resolved scheme of the council of war make me conceive the King and his ministers have intelligence and assurances more than we know, and that therefore the troops may be better spared than I may imagine ; the leave the King seems to give me to embark the troops is an argument of such an opinion ; but an endeavour, at the same time, to engage the fleet in another service, unknown to me, is a proceeding new and extraordinary, which at least obliges me to desire some decision, for the Admirals have often declared they cannot go into Italy but with the whole fleet, and the whole fleet cannot go at same time to Italy and Majorca, and if not at same time, which service is to

be preferred? The meaning is plain, and I desire my answer may be so too. Sure these are not things to play with, and they cannot hope to make me their ass to bear their burthens.

The King sent to me about the clothes sent from England, and to send them to Tortosa; never were things in such confusion—one officer here, one at Gibraltar: some parcels here, some not arrived; the whole is for four thousand foot and a thousand horse, complete mountings for twelve hundred Neapolitans. I sent all to Tortosa without orders, as judging it for the service; the rest shall follow when arrived, and occasion offers.

I say nothing of Lord Galloway's thoughts, the persons themselves will communicate them; it is hard we should be thought mad amongst the rest, but they conclude us all dead or distracted.

As to paying his troops, sure his Majesty is satisfied, or ought to be, if when forbid by the public, I pay them on my own score, and for horses, if I buy them for him with my own money (though by his directions), sure I may be forgiven. The regiment of Pierce is established, the service acknowledged, and desires to improve a like occasion (so that without orders) that part of the sentence our politicians may let alone.

I hope you are not so angry as not to take the money I send you; I desire you take the King's own note to repay it me when he comes to Madrid, and I desire, since he wants twenty pistoles, that you will let him have it in his own power.

I send a thousand more for the Ambassador of Portugal, to whom I desire you to present my service. I shall send you some pistoles for those gentlemen of Valencia: they came out, I believe, unprovided, expecting nothing less than a march to Madrid by Saragosa.

Were it not for my resolutions not to fret, I should die in this hot weather; but when I consider how roughly you use me here, I read over some very civil letters from England, and comfort myself for their ill breeding. All is there as we would wish, and whatever was otherwise is covered over with affectations of compliments and services.

Friend, yours,

Valencia, July the 12th, 1706.

PETERBOROW.

Valencia, the 13th, 1706, July.

SIR,

You told me once, you wondered at my temper upon the retreat of the Portuguese ; though it may seem strange to retire when there is no enemy, I think it more extraordinary not to advance towards a crown.

But, Sir, this administration makes one lose all patience, or gives it one to the last degree. I am really come to that pass that nothing can move me, as you will find by my answer to your last letter but one.

While you are protesting, I write the most tender letter I can invent, and back it with five thousand pistoles of my own. I received a good sum by the last ships, and only tell you, in answer to the just accusations, in the first place, that to the Spanish and German regiments I have given 2500*l.* since I came to Valencia. I have nothing more to add but to plead guilty, since I have not laid out one farthing of the Queen's money in buying horses, so have diverted nothing could be appropriated to the use of the King of Spain. If I had laid out any, I can show you not only that I had orders from the King of Spain and the Queen of England, but can show you the King's order to his Viceroy to assist me in it, and I would be glad to know to what end he gave commissions.

Mr. Mead shall satisfy you that I have wasted no public money ; I wish the makers of these lies could say they had wasted no precious time.

Sir,

Your most affectionate friend,

PETERBOROW.

You will, near the same time with this, receive a letter with an account of the resolutions I shall take pursuant to the council of war.

July, the 20th, 1706.

SIR,

By the King's last letter, I find you are resolved to lose no more time, and will come to Madrid from Saragosa, the safest way, according to the disposition of the forces of the enemy, and the measures my Lord Galloway has taken. I am glad reason prevails at last.

But it is hard that I could not have been acquainted at first of these resolutions ; I could have done great services in this country, if I had been at liberty to have marched with all my force into Murcia ; I should have formed a noble body of horse, settled things so as that I might have brought them all to you : whereas now, I am obliged to leave six hundred horse about Alicant, about which place several towns are very obstinate, upon the persuasions that the King is dead.

As it is plainly the only thing we have to do, immediately to march such forces as may force the enemy at least over the Ebro, if not out of Spain, before any considerable body of foot can join them ; judge what a reinforcement two thousand good horse and five thousand foot had been, and what an advantage that this whole country had been settled, and we at liberty, if the foot could have been spared to have sent them to Italy. Whereas now, by the secrets of the court, and the most unprecedented proceeding of the admirals, I am forced to leave two thousand foot and six hundred horse to maintain Carthagen and this country, or it would all be exposed to pillage.

But our admirals plundering Carthagen, that admitted them with all imaginable civility and gallantry, and making themselves the judges of what ought to be confiscated, and taking it for themselves, is a proceeding as new as scandalous.

I send you six thousand six hundred pistoles, for which you will give Mr. St. Roman a receipt ; and be pleased to let the King have five thousand in his own hands, giving me his note to repay me in Madrid ; a thousand I send for the ambassador of Portugal, and six hundred with this intent, that you make my compliments to the Marquesa of La Casta, to the Count of Villa Franquessa,

and the Count of Cassall, telling them that, because I knew they went out of Valencia so suddenly and unprovided, that I take the liberty to send you two hundred pistoles a-piece for them, if they have occasion, not knowing whether they have correspondence in that country.

I desire you to see if any civilities of mine can be made acceptable, by your putting them in a true light before his Majesty ; the last letter I received from him was very civil. I have laid out 10,000*l*. of my own for his service since I came to Valencia. I have laid out none of the Queen's money, but immediately for him, and the pay of the troops and providing of baggages, which I have now got for all the troops ; and I have sent you Mr. Mead's letter to let you see how well-founded a lie it was, that I was letting the King's troops starve, and employing public money to buy horses without order. The King's foot have had two thousand six hundred pistoles since I have been in Valencia, as shall appear by their certificates, signed by themselves. I desire you will represent this, and let me have the King's answer. Sure he must see into these malicious and foolish representations.

I was sending this money by Tortosa for security, but finding by the last letters you were in a disposition to march, and that I believe the safest way may be by Teruel, and so towards Requena, or that you may send a stronger escort, if necessary, and have the money sooner this way ; I have sent De Romans, my aide-de-camp, to Teruel, with orders to wait there till you send him directions how to proceed.

With the advice of councils of war, of the Viceroy, the Count of Zavallar, and Conde of Elda, just come from Madrid, I shall march and encamp about three thousand foot and thirteen hundred horse upon the upper part of the Tage, to be ready for all occasions, as opportunity and the King's commands shall direct. Pray let me have advice of the King's motions, as I will send you notice of mine.

I shall be ready to cover the King's march, if he comes through the part of Arragon inclining to Valencia, which may be most secure. I can join the King, if he marches the upper way, and

what they call Camin Real, from Saragosa, or the Portuguese army, wherever it be posted, as occasion may require.

The Saragosa Gazette speaks of descents in France; I am apt to believe there may be some such project, because otherwise that part of the fleet would have been in those seas, and these troops embarked, no doubt designed for Italy.

Sir, yours,

PETERBOROW.

SIR,

The unwillingness of my brethren of the sea to stir one step out of the way for any service, is so remarkable, that a remedy shall be put to that lazy humour as soon as I can get the necessary authority; but I have found an expedient to send you the arms, sending them ashore at Sigeth or Villanova, to be sent in a country bark to Barcelona. I wish you only stay for them.

Your most affectionate friend,

PETERBOROW.

Almunafelt, the 24th, 1706, July.

SIR,

The reason I did not acquaint you with the measures I had resolved upon (which you say would have been some direction in the present circumstances) was, because I was afraid of some letters or orders that might have made me uneasy; but notwithstanding all prevention I met with them, a fate never to be avoided in this service, of which I am more weary than a galley-slave of his oar.

With the advice of a council of war, and consent and approbation of the Viceroy, Count Zavillar and Elda (the last just come from Madrid) the resolution was taken, much to my heart's desire, that I should march immediately to Madrid. The advices from my Lord Galloway made it absolutely necessary, and the situation of

affairs in the capital required it, and the desperate resolution the King had taken made it necessary also, in the opinion of all mankind. However, I know it would be much more agreeable never to see me there, than that I should go thither without the King, though for his service ; therefore, expecting some impediments, if they could be found, I resolved to say nothing to you until it were too late for advices or orders.

But upon the neck of this came three repeated letters from the King of Spain, the most in favour of the Duke of Savoy, representing the necessity of his succour above all services ; representing his circumstances as past danger, and magnifying the glorious campaign made by the Portuguese, who had secured Madrid, and his way thither ; so that nothing, as I apprehended, was wanting but that I should dispose of myself, as well as of the troops, to Italy ; and that all this was calculated upon their own precautions, or some advices from hence, to prevent my march towards Madrid, or to load me with all the accidents that might attend the Duke of Savoy and the Italian war ; representing to the world that I had sacrificed that tender part to an unnecessary vanity and unreasonable desire of marching to the capital, rather for pique or pleasure than motives of the public good.

This, Sir, prevented the well-grounded design of making the utmost dispatch for joining my Lord Galloway, or at least of being so near him as to be ready to assist, if occasion required. This is the occasion why, perhaps, my Lord Galloway may think me asleep, as well as the King bewitched. This prevented my approach to Madrid, which would have put all the great ones in the King's interest, and procured a declaration they could not have departed from.

But when I found at same time, when I was thus to be amused about Savoy, that the King had sent private orders to the Count Zavillar, without my knowledge, to treat with the admirals to engage the fleet in another service, judge, Sir, what a sense I had of such usage. I then writ those letters to you, and very pressing ones to the King, to make him discover himself, which, if he had not, I would have embarked all the foot, and renounced a country of such inhumanity and folly.

But as no usage can make me, I hope, omit my duty, upon the intelligence from Madrid I concluded that must happen which I now find, and was persuaded the King would be forced to come by Teruel. Accordingly, though I durst not advance the troops too far towards Madrid, or distant from the sea, because of the Italian pretences, yet I have them in the post you could desire for the present circumstances which I foresaw ; and, expecting the declarations you have now made, I sent orders some days ago to march towards Campilio, where we secure the passage over the river, and the place is in our power ; so that, taking to the right, we shall march to that place you mention, Cuenca, or thereabouts. Had it not been for your last letter I had been in person at Teruel by the last of the month ; but you will give me leave to take care not to be sent to Teruel. When you pass for Madrid I expect to hear from you positively, but hope I shall dispose the troops properly to cover and receive you to march to Madrid to join my Lord Galloway, as your advices shall direct.

Amongst the other ill effects of the King's delay, this is no small one, that I can get no letter of mine to my Lord Galloway, all the country betwixt being disaffected, and those I have attempted to send brought back. Some are persuaded the King is dead ; others are made to hope (what may happen by our conduct), that a battle is yet to decide all. So that having no news from me nor of my troops, I suppose he must form strange ideas of me, or have formed very just ones of this court.

I hope you are not in likelihood of being displeased with the money sent to Teruel. You see I guessed pretty right ; it may induce you to come that way, perhaps, which I believe the best. I hope I shall be at some certainty, and then I know what to do. I think I cannot be much out of the road ; if you send to me after the receipt of this, send towards Cuenca, or nearer the river Tage ; if the passage is free, your letters can hardly miss me.

I shall incline towards Teruel, if I hear the King takes that road ; or march the troops as fast as I can by regiments towards joining with my Lord Galloway, from whence I can send horse, if necessary, towards the parts you come by.

As to the admirals, I think nothing was ever so extraordinary

as their proceedings; I shall explain them more at large. At Carthagena, Jennings, from the pretence of plundering, in a town that received them with all the kindness imaginable, and the main fleet has, in the environs of Alicant, taken to the value of fifty thousand crowns in wine from friend and foe, under the happy pretext of *Gavachos* and *Butiflenos*!

Just now I receive an express, which gives an account of orders to Moras to march the foot to Molina d'Arragon; mine of the 20th were to march them to the Tage, towards Guadaluara. Those to me were very proper; these last, to the utter ruin of the troops, and all that my orders seem to intend. God help them that serve them, and deliver me from them!

Sir, yours,

PETERBOROW.

Parilla, August the 1st, 1706.

SIR,

The consequences of the most fatal resolution taken by the King, in delaying his journey to Madrid, appear every day more and more; and I can hardly persuade myself that men in their common senses could fall into such measures. Nothing is like the usage I have received from the Court; and the only consolation I have is, that I believe it will prove sufficient to make me take the happy opportunity of leaving them to their own conduct and fortune.

In my opinion, from being absolutely secure of the kingdom, their affairs were never in worse circumstances; and a most scandalous and unexpected revolution may happen. There are generals enough; and I may well be spared, who am much more willing to return to my cabin, when, hitherto, I can give the world a good account of myself, than to share with others a disgrace, that is as probable, in my opinion, as it will be little expected, in England, if it should happen, who, I suppose, think all over, and will be sure to neglect every thing necessary for our support this autumn.

Never men were so industrious to bring things all ways to the utmost extremities, for I see nothing but a battle, which, with a disadvantage of our side, is fatal;—no retreat, no security, no after-game, but every man lost; for, assure yourself, in Castille there is a most violent spirit against us, which appears to a degree that could not be imagined.

As the possession of Madrid six weeks ago gave us all imaginable advantages, had, in a manner, engaged all Spain, and given us the opportunity of driving the horse the enemy had out of this country, before they were reinforced with foot, as it might have encouraged the Portuguese to march on (whose stop for ten days at Madrid was as fatal as Hannibal's at Capua), so now, in my poor opinion, the possession and defence of Madrid is like to prove our greatest trouble, and put us upon measures of all unreasonable hazards to protect it.

That the King must go thither is certain, and as certain that he will be received there with nothing but noise. Every body is persuaded the deciding stroke is at hand, and will, therefore, expect the events of a battle. They think we have no succours at hand; that the enemy are in daily hopes of reinforcements; they have no opinion of the Portuguese troops: and believe the other army will be very hearty and very unanimous. And, indeed, I am very much afraid of them, for their former actions and this last wise stroke of detaining the King, has given a contempt and aversion for the German ministry that is inconceivable; and the change of disposition in every place in a month's time cannot be expressed.

After the taking Requena, twenty horse might have gone to Madrid; and all the places were offering to me to acknowledge the King, upon condition I would protect them from Miquelets, and the thieves and rogues bred up under Bassett; but now, many thousands were in arms, to oppose our passing the river Xucar; and they broke down all the bridges, and flung up earth, and stoccaded many passes, and have given all the most warm and foolish marks of ill-will, and had made it very uneasy for us to pass but for the drought, which had made many places fordable.

The letters from Mahoni, from the Governors of Cuenca and St. Clemente, express their inclinations and hopes, which I doubt are better grounded than we believe; and in Valencia things cannot be in worse circumstances. The country disgusted and affronted to the highest degree in the King's neglect of them, who had so zealously served him,—and revenge is a passion not unknown to the Spaniards. That poor people, so exposed and harassed, had got sixteen thousand pistoles ready to present to the King. Castillon de la Plana, Xativa, and some other great towns, had a thousand pistoles ready, and many others five hundred, to present to the King; but between the King and the admirals, such an alteration was never in any country, and sure never were such measures taken by both to procure it. All the *huerto* of Alicant, as they call it, the people all our friends; and when we were expecting them to join and assist us, then to land all our men, and employ our boats night and day to rob them with that admirable distinction of knowing who were *Gavachos* and *Butiflenos*. This is yet beyond St. Mary's; and above fifty thousand crowns worth of wine they have either embarked or destroyed.

Besides, there is nothing that I apprehend more than a little army with many generals. What may be the pretences of a Portuguese, who, perhaps, has a mind to go home, what may be the disposition of the Court, I know not, but I am sure I will be commanded by nobody, and have as little mind to command. I have always had in imagination, that our ministry could make the King miscarry in the gates of Madrid; and I believe it may so happen.

I will trouble you no more at present, but desire you to keep the contents of this letter to yourself. I shall be on the 4th at Pastrana, as the King's letter directs.

I have eight hundred horse, and Aumada and Colbatch. Wyndham will be at or about Cuenca on the 5th, with five hundred horse and three regiments of foot. I am sorry to hear of an engagement. I suppose some of your blessed orders have drawn it on, when two thousand horse, and about three thousand foot, were at hand. I can only tell you, that all the comfort I

have when I draw near your Court, is yourself. I wonder in none of your letters that you take notice of having received the money. I suppose you only writ to get some, and never think more of it when received.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

SIR,

When I came near Huete, I received the comfortable news, that all my baggage, consisting of sixteen waggons, besides fifty mules, except eight or nine with me, were taken by the enemy; all my horses and equipage, and the most part of my servants killed, which I owe to the Spanish General; with the loss of the artillery that was there, which he left behind, without my knowledge or order, without a guard, when twenty men would have brought it safe to the camp. It is hard that I must suffer so by the follies of others, who never had any the least mischance while affairs were in my hands.

The whole country rose with the enemy's horse for this noble project, and nothing could be more fortunate than my escape and coming; for though my particular loss is irrecoverable, yet, with about sixty horse, I have recovered and frightened the whole country, and brought them into subjection. I marched towards Cuenca to hasten Wyndham, and to give him what advice and assistance I could, and have contributed to keep him from starving, with much ado; but it is never thought of with you, that people may starve in a country where the people are against you, having no magazines and stores.

The taking of Cuenca is the most fortunate thing in the world, and the recovery of Huete. Both strong by nature, the first might easily be made impregnable; the other consequences are touched in the council of war, which you will see. I am but a poor volunteer, that stay a day or two to put things in some order, without which these troops, after their success, would have

perished before they could join you. Without these places, and the troops where they are, I do not see how you could subsist; and as things are, it will be hard enough, unless extraordinary careful measures are taken.

Cortisos is ready to hang himself, and more willing to lose all than serve any longer. I know how useful he will be, and assure him of my Lord Galloway's protection.

You will see how, and where, those troops must join you, and who must be sent to protect the services of this side the Tage, and assist in the matters of provisions. I believe Don Pedro Moras is the fittest person.

I bear all other losses patiently, besides my barbs and my cheese. My Lord Galloway and you have your share. I had eight waggons with good eatables and drink, which I told you I would send you; but good management can lose meat and drink, barbs and kingdoms.

Talancon, and the towns thereabouts, have sent provisions to Huete, and made their submissions, which makes me think that the enemy is not very active; at least cannot support them of this side the river. I have just received, God be thanked, very good news from every port where I have any concern—Alicant being taken; but by my son, come from Italy, very indifferent news, and very differing from what they give out at Court, in relation to the Duke of Savoy.

Sir, in my poor opinion, the success of all depends upon the defence of Cuenca and Huete, in order to keep this country in subjection, and to keep the communication open with Valencia. Assure yourself, no usage shall cool or diminish my diligence or endeavours for the public good.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

Huete, August the 16th, 1706.

Huele, August 18th, 1706.

SIR,

I enclose the King's letter, which will let you and my Lord Galloway see my thoughts. But I see nobody but yourself that can support this business of this side,—there must be a great deal of vigour, care, and drudgery; and the person must understand the language; must frighten the people, and yet not ruin and destroy them. Our troops of this side having money, may be kept from plundering, and the matters of subsistence may be put in some form and regularity.

For fear they have not sent me my letters from Italy, only one or two, which assure me all the news of the Court was wrong, and that the siege of Turin was carrying on with the utmost vigour, and the Duke under the highest distress.

I hope, by my diligence and care, to overcome even the ingratitude of your Court; at least, I will do my duty, upon other principles, and cannot be robbed of my reward. How much soever I suffer by the follies, and ignorance, and misfortune of others, I shall have the satisfaction of having done my duty.

I do not see, but in the present circumstances if improved, but you may very well carry on a defensive war. Money I will get, if above ground, and a port to winter our fleet in; and of this rest assured, and with the utmost dispatch.

I send the humble petitions of two Valencian Lords, father and son. The King might have had all the nobility united, and at his feet. The Viceroy and Zavillar complain of the unreasonable and barbarous orders from the Court, which tended to nothing but ruin and confiscation. I suppose you will abate something of your insolence and cruelty at present. Let not the King make his enemies desperate, and discourage his friends. They are proper methods at this time. Let me hear from you and have answers. I am sorry, for your sake, I have lost all my good wine and drink. I shall make a brave hand of it. I have nothing left but a suit of clothes and six shirts, and have lost

above six thousand pounds by others, that never lost a mule, or the least thing, this whole war.

Sir,

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

I am just marching to Valencia.

Sir, I must desire you to consult with my Lord Galloway about the contract, about the artillery. Our artillery is now reduced to six pieces, and yet he has all the mules, and what was necessary for the whole, the expenses of which amounted to above five thousand pounds every two months. This will be thought monstrous in England, and yet there was no remedy; but I think great part should be dismissed, and as soon as possible; and this my Lord Galloway and you must remedy. I had a scheme for this at Valencia, and had brought thirty waggons and six mules—a piece almost for nothing—and did intend to dismiss Cortisos; but these, by the rare conduct of Don Pedro Moras, or by our ill fortune, are all lost, which is a cruel blow, which I know not how to remedy. Pray, as soon as possible, let this of Cortisos be thought of, and fixed.

SIR,

I send you, enclosed, my letter to the King: I will make my utmost efforts to overcome all the prejudices raised by his villainies. I will serve him with all that zeal and delicacy which such usage deserves, as I receive from the Queen, who rewards me for all the ill-manners of this Court, and their ingratitude, with favours and obligations that can never be deserved, since they are made more obliging in the manner than the thing.

But if that won't do, I will seek other ways of being easy in this service; and I doubt not to bring it to that certainty, that none shall be able to prevent regular and proper measures to be taken, and that it shall be made impossible for them either to undo themselves, or disappoint the Queen and nation of the

honours due to them for those generous efforts which have been so frustrated by the scandalous folly and knavery of some people.

I send you a copy of Lady Marlborow's letter, because a part of it relates to yourself and brother. I would send the Queen, if the opportunity were safe, a thousand delicacies I am indebted for; and if a thousand lives could repay them, they should be freely sacrificed. The Whig storm has reached the ladies, as I am informed; Lady Fretfield out of the bedchamber, and one in her place, that presents her service to you in her last letter, though she takes no notice to me of any such thing, which I only hear from other hands.

But of all her Majesty's favours, none touch me as much as her answer to my Lord Barrymore, who made a great interest and heavy complaints, that I had ruined his regiment, taken his best officers out, and then imposed upon him whom I thought fit, in the regiment he was forced to raise. The Queen made him this answer—"That she was very glad I had chosen the best officers where they could do her the best service: that they were the best judges who served with them; but, however, she had reason to believe every thing I did was well done, and would change nothing." The obliging letters and messages, by the Count de Lecherain, from my Lord Marlborow, increase my satisfaction; and of this side the account I have is, that the Duke of Moles is coming hither, and that we are like to lose our great minister—what a loss!

I cannot but continue in opinion, we ought not to risk for the present an engagement with the enemy; if so, Cuenca is of the greatest importance, and the garrison there not sufficient. It is the strongest place by nature that can be seen. I intimate to the Ambassador, but pray take no notice to nobody, that in six weeks' time I will bring two thousand horse and two thousand foot, let the affairs in Italy go how they will; if well, I return, of course, with the troops and the money I can get; if ill, I may bring, perhaps, some of the Duke of Savoy's broken troops along with me. You shall see what efforts I will make—if possible, I will overcome folly and ingratitude.

Sir, let me hear from you ; depend upon me in all that can be of service to you or to your family. Give me timely notice of what you have a mind to in all kinds, that I may take opportunities of bringing it about ; particularly let me know, if I stay abroad, whether you are inclined to make a parliamentary trip, and are willing to submit, for the public and your friends, to the trouble of the voyage. I do not say this to persuade, but only to know your mind, because, as I apprehend, you seemed to desire it.

Perhaps you might get me St. Roman, my aide-de-camp, who is taken, and my papers from the Duc of Berwick, which are of no further use to him when read. You will receive the news of Methuen's death, which I am very sorry for at this juncture. I am trying to get some money for the Portugal Ambassadors, as far as I can succeed, so much shall be left with the Viceroy. You must find the way to give the communication open ; I have done all I could towards it, and have run sufficient risks to reduce and chastise this part of Castile.

I might have profited by the loss of my baggage, the towns concerned having offered to raise a great sum, rather than expect the effects of my resentment, which they had reason to expect, but I chose to oblige them to bring corn for the army, rather than money for me ; but this, as all other services, will meet the same acceptance.

Sir,
Your affectionate Friend,
PETERBOROW.

August the 30th, 1706.

Your Hermitage is good—the rest indifferent.

As to my own affairs, they cannot be in better circumstances ; the city made a public compliment to the Queen in my behalf, in conjunction with my Lord Marlborow : and my Lord Godolphin sends me word that my commission for Vice Admiral of England

is passed, but they do not send it me for fear of tempting me from the land service, where, he is pleased to say, they think me so necessary. I had been undone if we had had more success and my Lord Marlborow less, so that in some sort I am obliged to Prince Lichtenstein, &c. Write to me as often as you can, and send your letters to the Viceroy, who will send them as occasions offer, and who is a man of entire honour and confidence. Have a little pity of my Valencia friends, and pray solicit with Zinzestein the enclosed petition of the Count de Zavillar's friend.

The Grau, September the 7th, 1706.

SIR,

I do not repeat to you what I write to my Lord Galloway, because I send his letter open to you, and only touch to yourself what I think fit to communicate only to a friend.

When I found a disposition in some to bring me in for a share in the present mismanagement, when I found some secrecy in the correspondence to England, I confess I would not explain things so fully as I do now, because I was willing, if there were any ill will, it should appear, and nothing does so much good as envy discovered, and accusations where the defences are so plain and undeniable.

I have in time sent all the antidotes to England, and shall repeat them all by your secretary, who, in his own private judgment, wanted informations, and it was to your kind advertisements of the idle discourses that passed that I owe the seasonable precautions I have taken.

Whenever I do not think myself of England, my desires and wishes are, that you should pass some winter months there—your presence was never more necessary; and for my own part, I am resolved, with the utmost patience, to stick at the mark, and, with the utmost resignation, to make my compliments, if it be but in contradiction; however, I expect a great alteration in affairs, and in the ways of the court, upon the arrival of the Duke of Moles,

whose character I am satisfied with, and believe I shall bring him into these parts.

I think I have done you some little services in my return. The whole kingdom of Valencia was near lost. Keep my folly to yourself, but I hope to get both Porto Specie and Mahon, the islands and money. I wish you would, or could, come to Barcelona, with Count Lecherain; I would leave a ship to bring you to Genoa. I will venture a hint to the King, which you may make use of as you please: I send the letter open, for to you everything is open, and particularly my heart.

Yours,

PETERBOROW.

I send you the advertisements I think fit to give Cortisos, in relation to the artillery, if he pretend by the title, where he puts in an agreement for six months; I can assure you it was put to it after I signed it, and the body of the contract is only obliging; if his mules are wanting, it is but my Lord Galloway's continuing it or doing as he thinks fit.

Alicant, September 10th, 1706.

SIR,

The good news from Italy gives us, I hope, a prospect of recovering what we have lost by our own faults, and has put me out of pain about those positive orders relating to the sending troops to the Duke of Savoy, which are so much wanted here. I could not deal with such an order alone, but when I can get the unanimous consent of all in councils of war, of sea, and land, I will make no scruple of the dispensing power.

The letters to the Admirals were very useless from Court, about the troops to embark for Italy; I wish the King would have sent them some that would have taken effect in a more important case: in that case, they could take no other resolution but to transport what troops I would embark: and when I told them it was my opinion to embark none if the council of war would agree with me

in that resolution, they presently consented to a determination when the order was directed only to me.

But when the important case came to bear, in relation to the sending away such an important squadron into the West Indies, upon the supposition of Madrid in our power, and the advantages which might arise by the King of Spain sending proper officers to those parts of America, then I could get no Admiral to bear a part in setting aside, or delaying, those orders, which they all allowed were improper, and might prove fatal in our present circumstances, taking away, to no purpose, those ships which were proper for our early campaign next year.

If anything were wanting to convince the King of my zeal to his service, this might suffice; unsolicited by his Majesty, I not only offered to speak first, to give my opinion, in a previous letter writ to them from the shore, and this in the capacity of commanding the fleet, but offered them a memorial, as Ambassador, to show my reasons, which we should all join in setting aside, or suspending this order, but all in vain. I could get no companion, and could not venture upon it alone, not knowing but my condemnation might come even from those for whose sake I exposed myself to hazard.

I could do no more, but send immediately to England, and signify to Sir John Jennings, that he must at least stay the utmost time allowed. I hope an order from home may stop them at Lisbon, else there will remain not above eight or nine ships in Portugal, to be refitted there this winter, and, what is worse, I know not that there are ships in England to replace that sort of ships which we send away; and the cruel thing is, that supposing a squadron of ships might be of use in the West Indies, these cannot be so by their orders, who are by their orders to come away before they can do any good, and are only to absent themselves from the present service, by an order that, in our present circumstances, only sends them out of the way: this agreed by everybody, but nobody willing to prevent the evil but myself, nobody willing to run any hazards but him that has the least reason of any man living to expose himself.

Whether the first notice comes to your hands, I know not which

I sent, but could not explain myself enough because of my fears it might fall into the enemies' hands: neither dare I yet send all that is necessary, lest it might betray to the enemy the motions of our fleet. And besides,—it is needless, the only remedy can come from Hamilton that is gone for England with orders for the utmost dispatch. It is impossible, in my opinion, the King can choose the proper men to get ready within the time, neither do I know, that in the present circumstances, they would prove of use; however, a ship is to be left at Altea, Alicant, or Carthagena, since an enemy may oblige her to move her station, to carry such West India Ministers or the King's orders to Lisbon.

Had I met the support I deserved from your grateful Court, I might have run the hazard. I am going to show as much indiscretion and zeal as is possible, but it is with consents and approbations of councils of war; I am going with those foul ships for Italy to see if I can get you German horse and money, though I have notice the sea is filling with French ships. I see no other expedient to support our circumstances, and, therefore, must venture upon it; good winds and good luck may make that service remarkable though not acceptable.

I am a little surprised at the manner of discoursing of the young minister that you sent home. His cargo seems to be of mistakes*, in a gentle word; and at least he did me the favour to publish so much of his mind or business, as to give me sufficient caution to prevent his wrong informations; if your letters could have come time enough to him, I would have desired you to give him a caution, for I should be very unwilling to have any dispute with any friend of yours, or person that had been in your family.

If the King should be sending for any troops from hence, pray, Sir, let him see it is impossible that any can be spared; you find how many have expressed that opinion; I am sensible it would lose this whole country, which have mightily changed their inclination; and the communication lost with the sea, I know not what would become of the King and the army: while I am here

* The word "lies" is here written, but again effaced in the MS.

I shall do my utmost; I have expressed my desires to go home, and I hope my solicitations, and the endeavours of some others may succeed.

Your most affectionate Servant,

PETERBOROW.

SIR,

After a happy passage of seven days from Alicant to Genoa, I received in this country the happy and true account of the battle gained and the siege of Turin raised.

The false informations of a victory which we had at Valencia, with such remarkable circumstances as a Colonel sent with a passport from the Viceroy of Catalonia, and one from Prince Eugene, with letters for the King and Prince Litestein, gave me the pretence of leaving all the forces in Spain, and following the resolutions of a council of war, which agreed in the utility of my passing into Italy.

I hope the consequence will show it was right judged, and had I had a proper influence in sea matters this success in Italy had been fatal; but I find I shall ever differ in opinion with our admirals, who, upon this occasion, were all of one sentiment, that the fleet could signify nothing in these parts without land forces. So fatal is the error, that had we at this time thirty ships, nay a lesser number, our enemies could never renew the war in Italy, or prosecute it in Spain. No arguments could prevail on them to join with me in giving the necessary orders to form a fleet to stay here for the present occasion, which could no ways be done but by venturing to disobey those orders which were properly calculated for the King of Spain's interest at Madrid, but very improperly disposed for our present circumstances, since nothing could be more fatal than those ships sent to no purpose to the West Indies, which would have decided all here.

I met at Genoa the representation from the Duke of Savoy of the necessity of a squadron in these seas, to prevent the transpor-

tation of men, ammunition, &c., by shipping, which is the only way left him ; as likewise an account of the preparations making by sea and land at Toulon and that part of France : he concludes it designed to renew the war in Italy, I rather believe it is to bring it powerfully into Spain ; which way soever they design the naval force, though inferior to theirs, might have prevented either designs, or have enabled us to provide against them : for if they can bring troops, and we not, though we might have them, judge whether they will lose such an opportunity.

I have done all I could, and will do all I can, but it is very doubtful if with success ; what can resist the desires of going home, when there is no prospect of plunder, but of winter cruising and service ? I sent a ship home with the utmost and most pressing arguments for the stopping the West India squadron, and the speedy recruiting that squadron, and fitting them out for a return into the Mediterranean, which would prove of most consequence, because the enemy does not expect it.

As soon as I had the Duke of Savoy's desires, I sent another ship directly for Lisbon, with all that I can urge to persuade the proper resolutions for providing a winter squadron ; by all I can be informed of I do not find the French in condition to put so good a squadron as that before Barcelona last year to sea, and in this very moment the Dutch Envoy informs me he has received advices from Holland, of the consent of the States for keeping out the fleet in the Mediterranean this winter, and of the measures they have taken for provisions, so that I expect orders about it when impossible to put them in execution. I say no more, because I do not see that you have any opportunity of sending into England ; I mention, however, in the letter to the Portugal Ambassador, your own going, not knowing but perhaps you may be glad of it : as likewise that some things might be regulated in relation to the fleet, without which even the next year's service might be prevented.

If not in your person, perhaps in your letters to my Lord Treasurer or Secretary, you may think proper to take notice of some of these circumstances I mention. First, they have found that, in relation to the land service, I have always insisted upon being

tied up by councils of war, desiring less power and less liberty. Yet though I know the danger is greater in the management of our sea interests; yet there I would be glad of my authority, without which I can never be useful as I desire, or make the fleet so. The reason is plain; there is nothing more easy for me than to engage the land officers in any service reasonable to be attempted—there is nothing more hard, if not impossible, than to engage the admirals in anything out of the common road, or out of the way of their profit, and getting home in winter; besides, in my poor opinion as to the politic part, they are the poorest judges I ever saw in my life.

What I would desire was, not to be obliged to offer to a council of war every service, but I would willingly have orders, and would never fail to consult with them on all occasions, without orders, upon the execution of every enterprise; and this were sufficient to give the government security, if they depend upon their judgments as to the seafaring part, in which perhaps they do not surpass the rest of mankind. But when the Ministers consider the delay of ten days at Gibraltar, the council of war for staying for more force, and the like loss of time at Altea—when all their resolutions are considered, by which they show they think nothing safe without a certain overbalance of power; and for these reasons we can have no services performed upon the square, or where a good management might supply for a little defect of force. In my poor opinion I might have secured all with thirty ships. I believe you need not be surprised though you see Mr. Furly end this letter*, for though I am taken very violently with a pleurisy, which hinders me from writing myself, yet the seasonable bleedings and remedy I have taken, I hope will soon put me in condition to pursue my business.

At my return to Valencia I shall be very glad to find that you had taken the resolution, and obtained leave to go to England, for if the French bring all their forces into Spain by sea, which I very much doubt they design, without your solicitations or mine, our affairs will be in a very languishing condition; however, I thank heaven, I am not in that uneasy condition I have been in hereto-

* The remainder of this letter is in Mr. Furly's hand-writing.

fore, since I find quiet and satisfaction in that I have, and shall do all in my power, and doubt not to convince the world of it.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant,

PETERBOROW.

Genoa, October 7, 1706.

I have told Mons. Melasses that I would recommend him to you. I am afraid if you do not take some care of him he'll pass his time very ill at court. but when he is with you.

(1707.)

SIR,

If an engagement with the French, from whom we have taken a ship of six-and-forty guns, and near four hundred men, had not disabled some of ours—if I had not been forced in again into Genoa road, and since been driven by violent storms,—I had five or six weeks sooner been in Spain, a place to which, after my usage, I should return with very little satisfaction.

I have done my duty to the King of Spain with the utmost zeal, and I believe he will have reason to think with no small success; but I pretend no merit in what was only the indispensable obligation which I owe to myself, of doing what I ought to do, let other people act as they please. I shall likewise think so much of myself as to take sufficient care to 'scape all mortifications in such a service.

I had a short account of affairs in a letter from you, delivered by the Count de Lecherain; but I expected that things could not go but *de mieux en mieux*, when once so disagreeable and useless a person as myself was out of the way.

I have had a longer account from England of the great favours I have received from your secretary, and cannot conceive how a person to whom I was so much a stranger should be so extremely busy upon my account.

The account of our affairs in Italy is too nice and too long for a letter, but as to what relates immediately to the King of Spain, if

one man or one pistole could drive the French gentleman out of this country, that man or pistole is not to be had from the Emperor's troops, or from the State of Milan, though that country would think themselves happy if freed from plunder, upon condition to maintain thirty or forty thousand men.

In six or seven days I expect to be in Valencia, and in a few days afterwards to see those measures taken that may recover, if possible, our ill circumstances; if not, I can secure my liberty, which is a very comforting meditation.

Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant,

PETERBOROW.

SIR,

I received your letter with great satisfaction, for though I confess the pleasures I have had in Italy are great, and that the prospect of my speedy return makes it impossible for me to be in ill humour, yet I was a little vexed that, by the indiscretions of that wretch, so many of my friends should believe you were consenting to such insinuations and stories that were spread to my prejudice.

What I have 'scaped in Spain—what I have enjoyed in Italy—makes me conclude my stars are lucky, and have cured me of ill humour. I have a little good wine sent me by Monsieur Pontchartrain, which will last for ten or twelve days, and I have fifty hogsheads of it at Genoa, that I hope will serve me for the campaign in Italy.

I have brought over a gentleman of admirable parts, that comes from the Emperor, who is capable of doing us good, if anything can, and I believe really intends it. He has a letter for you from Stepney, but upon some old w— stories of twenty years' standing (for he is a Spaniard and a priest), the wise politicians that are afraid of him here are working to play him some trick, notwithstanding his recommendations and characters from the Emperor.

You will do him what service you can until I come. He is desirous to see the King, and, having nothing to do, I come at my ease, having hurt my foot extremely. I have brought too much money, I doubt, because the circumstances in Italy made it hard to be obtained, and at very great disadvantage; but I was resolved to overcome evil with good, and to shame your malice before I took my leave of you and this blessed country.

I hope you are getting the fruit of my services to the little Marqueza; but I quit very willingly all my pretences in Spain to you and everybody else.

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

PETERBOROW.

Buriana, (Jan. 6, 1707.)

[According to Mr. A. Furly's MS. Journal, this letter must have been written,

Jan. 10, 1707.]

SIR,

I have so little to do in Spain till the fleet comes, that being incommoded in my foot I travel the pace of a Spaniard, I mean of one that is not going to rob, or flying from the enemy.

I shall not be able to come to Valencia till the evening, and so must put off the dinner to the more agreeable meal, a supper, when Colonel Breton and myself intend to mortify you with the account of our happy days in Italy—of the nights we will say nothing; but I must confess I am impatient to be passing them there.

I wrote to you last night, but do not know if you will receive that letter before this. It went by a very formal Spaniard, but one that is agreeable enough when acquainted with him.

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

PETERBOROW.

F

March the 10th, 1707, Valencia.

Whereas, pursuant to those discourses with my Lord Galloway and yourself, it was thought requisite to use all possible means that the money allowed for the King of Spain should be applied for fortifications and the service of the troops towards the defence of Catadonia; 12,000*l.* is placed in the hands of the Abbot of Pueblet, not to be issued but upon your advice of its being employed to those uses, which I thought fit to communicate to you.

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

PETERBOROW.

Sir,

I write to you from the country of wonders and uncertainty—from a place famous for the presence of three Kings—that of Sweden, Augustus, and Stanislaus.

The allies may reproach themselves an overgrown power, which they might easily have prevented, which nothing can govern, and which would spoil even our greatest successes, since at last he will impose what peace he pleases.

The King of Sweden, with fifteen millions of crowns raised in Saxe, has raised, clothed, and mounted eighteen thousand horse and eight thousand dragoons; his foot makes up fifty thousand, the best troops in the world. In a week he marches into Silesia. His pretended quarrels with the Emperor are extraordinary, and fresh ones arise every day; but the pretence is he will march against the Muscovites when he has reparation from the Emperor, who offers all desired; yet his Ministers cannot be admitted to audience.

I am enjoying the pleasure of liberty and idleness, going from court to court in Germany, seeing wonders. Indeed, I can hardly do otherwise, being incommoded, and not able to travel; however, I shall reach Parliament and Old England in the autumn.

I expect no news from Spain, expecting no good. You find

Spanish horse will beat English foot, and that it was not so easy as you thought the getting to Madrid. I thank all those that have assisted in sending me to London.

Pray present my service to the Marquise of La Casta, and tell her I hope she finds herself better in her new friendships than the King has done in his new generals.

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,

PETERBOROW.

Ranstad, near Leipsic, July the 18th, 1707.

The King of Sweden gives more fears by his silence than ever any other monarch gave by his threats. It is undecided whether he is very wise or fool hardy; all we know is, he has fifty thousand men mad enough to obey with pleasure all he can command.

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